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NOTES AND BRIEF ARTICLES

Mr. Worthington G. Smith, celebrated for his illustrations of British fungi, died November 1, 1917. Several other famous mycologists died last year, among them Dr. P. A. Karsten, of Finland; Dr. Paul Hariot, of France; Professor George Massee, of England; and Dr. Charles H. Peck, of America.

At a recent meeting of the Torrey Botanical Club, Dr. W. A. Murrill spoke of his investigations of the gill-fungi of tropical North America, which he has just completed, the final paper on this subject appearing in the March number of *Mycologia*. Some of the larger genera were mentioned and the number of species in them compared with those of temperate regions. Of the 525 tropical species recognized by Dr. Murrill in his studies, 300 have been described by him as new.

The poplar canker, *Dothichiza populea*, was very destructive last year. This disease was introduced from Europe several years ago, and is now quite widely distributed in New York and New Jersey, as well as elsewhere. The tree most seriously affected is the Lombardy poplar, although the Carolina poplar suffers considerably. No remedy has been found. The best means of checking the disease consists in cutting and burning affected trees as soon as they are discovered and in keeping a careful watch over nursery stock.

The structure of *Polyporus glomeratus* Peck was described and illustrated in the November number of *Torreya* by Overholts, who concludes that it is eminently worthy of specific rank. The author gives a good description of the species and states that it is known from New York, Ohio, and Michigan, on logs of maple and beech.

A list of the 1,108 water-color drawings of fungi by the late George E. Morris in the Peabody Museum of Salem, Massachusetts, has recently been prepared and published under the authorship of Albert P. Morse. A brief account of Mr. Morris's life and work is given in the introduction to this paper.

The botanical work of Ezra Michener was outlined by Shear and Stevens in an article in the December number of the *Torrey Bulletin*. The following paragraph is quoted from a description of the Michener herbarium, the fungi of which are now in Washington.

"In addition to portions of many of Schweinitz's specimens, as described in an earlier paper, the Michener herbarium contains numerous specimens from the collections of fungi described by Berkeley and Curtis as well as fungi identified by Michener himself. With the exactness characteristic of all his work Michener indicated on the labels the source of the specimen and by whom it was identified. This collection of fungi which has now been made available for study will prove of great value to American mycologists. The herbarium also contains an excellent collection of lichens, with many authentic specimens from Tuckerman, who identified most of the material."

The War Emergency Board of the American Phytopathological Society, which was organized at the Pittsburgh meeting during the holidays, held a meeting in Washington, February 9-11. The organization of this board is the result of a determination on the part of plant pathologists to do their part in winning the war. Certain problems of nation-wide importance are being handled. At the special meeting, reports on these projects were made. A census of all persons able to do pathological work is being taken and encouraging progress was noted. Other projects on Fungicides and Machinery, Emergency Research, Plant Disease Survey, and Crop Loss Estimates were considered at some length. Plant pathologists have in the war conditions a great opportunity for service to the commonwealth, for there is no more vital feature in maintaining maximum crop production than that of the reduction of leakage due to crop diseases.